

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 27, 1999 LB 860

"revenue may be generated from other nonprofit or commercial sources by the lease of excess transponder capacity, excess transmission spectrum, or transmission facilities. All lease arrangements authorized by this section shall be made for the purpose of paying a portion of the cost associated with satellite capacity replacement and digital conversion. All lease arrangements shall be based on sound business principles that are made in the best interest of the State of Nebraska. The commission may also enter into partnerships with public or private entities for the purpose of jointly building and operating tower and other transmission structures." So it's a way for us to pay part of the cost of this cost of converting to digital. And we needed a bill to do this. This authorizes them to lease that purchase...lease those out for other uses, based on the guidelines that I...that are stated in the committee amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Any discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a quick question regarding...and I've been holding back on this, but I would like you to explain why we need to go to digital. Why is the federal government doing this, and why...? For those of us who are watching it on TV right now, all of the TV sets in the state of Nebraska will be obsolete, and everyone's going to have to be forced to buy new TV sets. And how many people were aware of that, and...why?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I can't explain why...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Excuse me,...why federal law was...this was mandated by Congress and FCC...what year? What year? When was it? Two years ago. I think it's 2006 we have to convert. And it's mandated by federal law.

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, thank you, Senator Wehrbein. And I understand that it is mandated in the state of Nebraska in order to go ahead with this, and to have NETV to comply with this we have to have this equipment and so forth. And I appreciate the